

Application No.: 10/781174  
Amendment dated: October 28, 2008  
Reply to Office action of July 28, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 (currently amended). Cooking apparatus comprising:  
an enclosure having a food support for an article of food to be cooked, and a fuel support for solid fuel, the supports having food supporting and fuel supporting areas respectively, said areas being displaced from each other sufficiently that cooking of a food article on said food supporting area by fuel on said fuel supporting area can take place, at least in substantial part, as a result of contact between said food article and hot gas produced by combustion of said fuel;  
an inlet opening for flow of air into the enclosure;  
an impeller arranged to cause air to flow, ~~though~~ through said inlet opening, from the exterior of said enclosure into the interior thereof, and to impinge upon solid fuel on said fuel supporting area;  
an electric motor arranged to operate the impeller;  
a first temperature sensor for sensing the temperature of the atmosphere within said enclosure in the vicinity of an article of food on said food support, and providing a first output signal;

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a second temperature sensor for sensing the internal temperature of a food article on said food support and providing a second output signal; and  
a programmed controller, responsive to said first output signal, for controlling operation of said electric motor, said controller ~~causing~~ being programmed to cause the impeller to increase the flow of air into the interior of said enclosure with decreasing temperature of said atmosphere and to decrease said flow of air with increasing temperature of said atmosphere, whereby said atmosphere is maintained substantially at a set point temperature;  
said controller being also ~~responsive~~ programmed to respond to said second output signal ~~for reducing to reduce~~ said set point temperature as the internal temperature of said food article increases, and ~~regulating to regulate~~, over an interval of time, the rate at which the set point temperature is reduced in dependence on the internal temperature of said food article as sensed by said second temperature sensor, said interval of time beginning with a time at which the internal temperature of said food article reaches a predetermined level;  
in which said controller includes a manually operable adjuster for setting a target temperature for the internal temperature of the food article, and is programmed to cause said set point temperature gradually to approach a temperature level exceeding

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said target temperature by a predetermined amount  
and to hold the temperature of the atmosphere within  
said enclosure at least at said temperature level  
until fuel on said fuel support is no longer able to  
maintain said temperature level.

2(cancelled).

3(currently amended). Cooking apparatus according to claim 1, in which said controller includes ~~a first manually operable adjuster for setting a target temperature for the internal temperature of the food article, and reduces said set point temperature gradually toward a level exceeding said target temperature by a predetermined amount,~~ and a second manually operable adjuster for setting a maximum temperature for said atmosphere within said enclosure.

4(previously presented). Cooking apparatus according to claim 1, in which said enclosure has an internal wall, and including a deflector for directing a stream of air from said impeller along said internal wall toward said fuel supporting area, whereby said stream of air is prevented from reaching said first temperature sensor before said stream of air reaches fuel on said fuel supporting area.

5(original). Cooking apparatus according to claim 1, in which said controller controls said flow of air by alternately switching electrical power to said electric motor on and off,

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and causes the impeller to increase and decrease said flow of air by varying the duty cycle of said electric motor.

6(original). Cooking apparatus according to claim 1, in which said controller controls said flow of air by establishing sequentially repeating fixed intervals of time, and alternately switching electrical power to said electric motor on once and off once in each such fixed interval of time, and causes the impeller to increase and decrease said flow of air by varying the proportion of each such fixed interval of time during which electrical power to said electric motor is switched on.

7(currently amended). Cooking apparatus according to claim 1, in which, when said enclosure is closed and fuel on said fuel support is in combustion, the only opening in said enclosure through which substantial amounts of external air can flow to said fuel supporting ~~area~~, area is said inlet opening.

8(currently amended). Cooking apparatus comprising:  
an enclosure having a food support and a solid fuel support;  
an inlet opening for flow of air into the enclosure;  
an impeller arranged to cause air to flow into the enclosure through said inlet opening and impinge upon solid fuel on said solid fuel support;

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a first temperature sensor for sensing the temperature of the atmosphere within said enclosure in the vicinity of an article of food on said food support;

a second temperature sensor for sensing the internal temperature of said article of food on said food support; and

a programmed controller, ~~responsive~~ programmed to respond to said first temperature and said second temperature sensor, for operating said impeller, ~~said controller and~~ causing the flow of air toward said solid fuel to maintain the temperature of said atmosphere within said enclosure substantially at a set point determined by the internal temperature sensed by said second temperature sensor, and, ~~by regulating to regulate~~ the operation of said impeller over an interval of time, thereby reducing said set point as said internal temperature increases, at a rate depending on the internal temperature of said food article as sensed by said second temperature sensor, said interval of time beginning with a time at which the internal temperature of said food article reaches a predetermined level;

in which said controller includes a manually operable adjuster for setting a target temperature for the internal temperature of the food article, and is programmed to cause said set point temperature gradually to approach a temperature level exceeding

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said target temperature by a predetermined amount  
and to hold the temperature of the atmosphere within  
said enclosure at least at said temperature level  
until fuel on said fuel support is no longer able to  
maintain said temperature level.

9(cancelled).

10(currently amended). Cooking apparatus according to claim 8, in which said controller includes ~~a first manually operable adjuster for setting a target temperature for the internal temperature of the food article, and reduces said set point temperature gradually toward a level exceeding said target temperature by a predetermined amount,~~ and a second manually operable adjuster for setting a maximum temperature for said atmosphere within said enclosure.

11(original). Cooking apparatus according to claim 8, in which said enclosure has an internal wall, and including a deflector for directing a stream of air from said impeller along said internal wall toward said fuel supporting area, whereby said stream of air is prevented from reaching said first temperature sensor before it reaches fuel on said fuel support.

12(original). Cooking apparatus according to claim 8, in which said controller controls said flow of air by operating said impeller intermittently.

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13(original). Cooking apparatus according to claim 8, in which said controller controls said flow of air by establishing sequentially repeating fixed intervals of time, and operating said impeller intermittently during a portion of each said fixed interval of time, and causing the impeller to increase and decrease said flow of air by varying the proportion of each such fixed interval of time during which impeller is operated.

14(currently amended). Cooking apparatus according to claim 8, in which, when said enclosure is closed and fuel on said fuel support is in combustion, the only opening in said enclosure through which substantial amounts of external air can flow to said fuel supporting ~~area~~, area is said inlet opening.

15-21 (cancelled)

22(currently amended) Cooking apparatus according to claim 1, in which said controller includes a manually operable adjuster for setting a target temperature for the internal temperature of the food article, and in which said predetermined level of the temperature of said food article is a temperature below said target temperature and ~~differing~~ differs by the same predetermined amount from the target temperature as set by said manually operable adjuster for any setting of said manually operable adjuster.

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23(currently amended)      Cooking apparatus according to ~~claim 9~~ claim 8, in which said controller includes a manually operable adjuster for setting a target temperature for the internal temperature of the food article, and in which said predetermined level of the temperature of said food article is a temperature below said target temperature and ~~differing~~ differs by the same predetermined amount from the target temperature as set by said manually operable adjuster for any setting of said manually operable adjuster.

24(cancelled).

25(new).    Cooking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined amount by which said temperature level exceeds said target temperature is a fixed amount independent of the target temperature.

26(new).    Cooking apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined amount by which said temperature level exceeds said target temperature is a fixed amount independent of the target temperature.